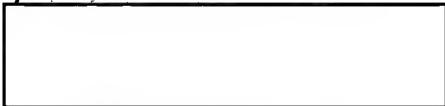


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KONRADSEN POL. Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Preliminary Analysis of Civilian Casualties Resulting from Bombing of North Vietnam

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1. The closest approximation to an official North Vietnamese total of casualties -- presumably both military and civilian -- is 75,000. This figure includes 10,000 killed and 65,000 wounded.

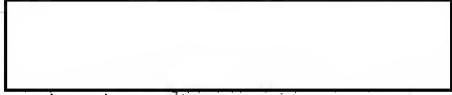
Only a few North Vietnamese official statements give casualty figures for specific incidents. They add up to total casualties of 632, of which 316 have been identified as killed and 316 as wounded. The North Vietnamese regime also claims that 18 schools and 30 medical installations have been bombed.

2. A careful analysis of all materials available to USA/CIA --
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yields a minimum hard estimate of 60% civilian
casualties of which 60% were killed and 40% were wounded.

3. At this stage in our analysis, we are not ready to furnish a firm estimate of total civilian casualties. However, a close approximation has been made on part of the problem.

4. Most of the air attacks in North Vietnam have concentrated on an area involving only 23 percent of the population, or 4.2 million persons. Within this area a total of 100 strikes -- including ground reconnoitering actions -- have been made against 30 military and 30 economic targets, largely bridges, etc. These targets are located at 100 geographic points of which 10 are in urbanized areas, 54 are in rural areas, and 34 are in other areas. The total population of these points, and consequently the population actually exposed to air attack is 700,000 persons, predominantly in urban areas.

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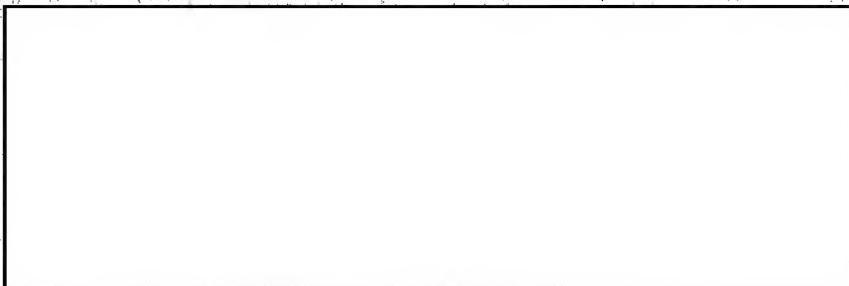


5. Photo-analysis of five sample areas -- two rural and three urban -- indicates total damage to civilian buildings surrounding the immediate target area of 1 to 1.5 percent of total buildings in the area. If this damage can be applied to all bombed target areas and if physical damage can be directly equated with casualties, then the ~~average~~ estimated civilian casualties would range from 7,000 to 10,000 persons. This estimate does not allow for prior warning of an air attack or other civil defense measures, and therefore the estimate should be offset downward.

6. The above estimate excludes armed reconnaissance missions. If they were included the number of persons exposed to air attack would increase significantly. A preliminary appraisal of the damage resulting from armed reconnaissance flights also indicates it probable that estimated civilian casualties would increase significantly. We propose to examine as much photography as possible on these strikes, next, by using the same factors as in strikes against other targets, to estimate a probable casualty number.

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Acting Director
Research and Reports



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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

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